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There is social and economic significance in the forces which the genius of men like Westinghouse let loose to play upon the society of their time and this. Westinghouse invented and developed the air brake, a factor of incalculable good. He became interested in natural gas in Pittsburgh, conceived machinery to control it and to develop it, secured a charter "so drawn that under it you can do almost anything you care to except engage in the business of banking," with the result that the company he is responsible for today "controls substantially all the public utilities in the city and immediate suburbs."

By a combination of invention and promotion, Mr. Westinghouse built up the Westinghouse electric company, eventually the chief rival of the General electric company. In itself, the development of these two great corporations and their long struggle over the respective merits of direct and indirect current forms one of the economic dramas of the era.

Mr. Leupp's book is a gifted amateur's achievement, the value of which consists in its indicating the possibilities and value of an adequate biography of Mr. Westinghouse.

HERBERT A. KELLAR

The fathers of New England. A chronicle of the Puritan commonwealths. By Charles M. Andrews. [The chronicles of America. Edited by Allen Johnson under the supervision of the committee on publications of the Yale university council] (New Haven: Yale university press, 1919. 210 p. \$3.50)

Volume six of the *Chronicles of America* series, like its predecessors, is a charming product of the printer's art. Artistically bound, with beautiful photogravures and an excellent bibliography and complete index, it is an addition to any book lover's library, and an aid both to the general reader and to the historical student.

Books almost without number have been written about New England's history, but seldom does one find an account with the broad historical view point of the one under discussion. The causes of the coming of the pilgrims are clearly and concisely stated, the classes of society from which the emigrants came are described, and a rather new idea is advanced. The author states: "The greatness of the Pilgrims lay in their illustrious example and in the influence they exercised upon the church life of the later New England colonies, for to the Pilgrims was due the fact that the congregational way of organization and worship became the accepted form in Massachusetts and Connecticut. But in other respects Plymouth was vastly overshadowed by her vigor-

ous neighbors. Her people, humble and simple, were without importance in the world of thought, literature, or education. . . . No great movement can be traced to their initiation, no great leader to birth within their borders, and no great work of art, literature or scholarship to those who belonged to this unpretending company. The Pilgrim Fathers stand rather as an emblem of virtue than a moulding force in the life of the nation."

The settlement of the various New England colonies is discussed in detail. A chapter is devoted to early New England life in which the educational system, occupations, town meetings, religion, and travel of the colonies are discussed. A rather interesting idea is brought out that hardly a fifth of those in Massachusetts were professed Christians. This goes to prove the author's statement that religious convictions were by no means the only driving motive that sent hundreds of men to New England.

Further chapter headings, "The attempts at colonial union," "Winning the charters," "Massachusetts defiant," "War with the Indians," "The Bay colony disciplined," and "The Andros régime," will show the line of development followed by the author in his discussion.

ESTHER M. DOLE

Colonel John Scott of Long Island, 1634(?) - 1696. By Wilbur C. Abbott, professor of history in Yale university. (New Haven: Yale university press, 1918. 94 p. \$1.25)

Scott was a rascal—"of all failures in the conflict between man and oblivion . . . perhaps the worst." So Mr. Abbott presents him in a study prepared originally for the Society of colonial wars in the state of New York. Of uncertain origin, with native wit and audacity, Scott was a not inconsiderable figure in the seventeenth century but he had not the success to blot out his sins. Land speculator, he all but became governor of Long Island, a fourteenth American colony. Court-martialed in the West Indies, he stalked treasonably through England, the Netherlands, and France, hobnobbing with Stuarts and Cromwellians, stealing hats and avoiding board bills, now royal cartographer, now tool of Buckingham. The study's chief value is as a cross section of seventeenth century English and colonial history, "seen, as it were, from the under side." Scott's vindication came two centuries later when his *Description of Guiana* helped settle the Venezuela boundary, and John Pollock and George Edmundson took him seriously. Mr. Abbott had not yet written.

IRVING S. KULL